

## YANKS AT HINGES IN COUNTER BLOW BELOW SOISSONS

1st, 2nd, 26th Help Smash  
Western Side of Marne  
Salient

## ALLIES REGAIN INITIATIVE

Americans Given Important Share  
in Victory That Saw End  
of German Hopes

If the home football team is on its own ten-yard line and the visitors, having the ball, give it to their left tackle and put their whole back field in to shove him through on a line plunge; and if, then, the line of the home team holds while its own left tackle goes through the visitors and get the ball on a fumble and the whole game begins working back up field—that is a successful counter-offensive.

It is, moreover, in the simplest terms, precisely the kind of counter-offensive which Captain Foch, of the Allied home team, put over on Captain Ludendorff, of the visiting German team, on July 18, 1918, when he got the ball of the initiative and began working back up field in that magnificent series of plays which were not to wait until victory should have been finally won on November 11.

Nevertheless, it must be remembered that, though the fundamental facts of the situation may be thus simply stated, their actual development was much more complicated. It is easier to see where an attack is going to be made along a line of 11 men, to stop it and to make the best counter-play, than it is to do the same things along a line of eleven hundred thousand men or twice that many.

By those who know, the change from the defensive to the offensive is considered perhaps the most difficult and delicate operation in the science of war. It will therefore be worth while to examine a little the conditions of the whole situation which Marshal Foch confronted and the measures by which he changed it to the advantage of the allies, in order to bring into proper focus the contributions which were made to his success by the individual American divisions in his armies.

**Foe Takes Breathing Spell**  
At the conclusion of their offensive to the Marne, which came to a standstill, roughly, about June 7, the Germans, as they had done after each of their previous great offensives, took a breathing spell in order to rest and replenish the divisions of their armies which had been worn down by fighting and then to accumulate these behind the lines in a maneuver mass which could be thrown into whatever part of the front the Allied Command might choose for the next great offensive.

By July 13 there had been thus accumulated behind the German lines, according to the best information of the Allied intelligence service, about 63 divisions which had been refitted, reinforced and rested for from three days to a week. A good many were in the sectors opposite the British armies and in the Amiens salient, a very few on the long front from the Argonne to the Swiss border, and a large number far enough back to be available for use in any sector, while the divisions were immediately back of Gen. F. von Helldorf's First Army and Gen. von Elnem's Third Army, which extended from the Argonne to Chateau-Thierry and belonged to the Army Group of the German Crown Prince. On July 13, which was two days before the beginning of the German attack along the Argonne-Chateau-Thierry front, these two armies were believed to have, also, about 18 divisions in front line.

At this time, it will be remembered, Germany was loudly boasting in her press that Marshal Foch could never hope to be able to assume the offensive because her reserves had been burned up by the German attacks, while the few he did have he could not wield as a mass of maneuver, being under the stern necessity of holding them to throw in against the German torrent wherever this might next dash against his lines.

## 72 Divisions in Reserve Mass

This was said, and perhaps the German command believed it, for the condition had been true enough at one time. But now, owing to French efforts and the rapidity with which American and also British troops had been coming over, the Allies had, in fact, a mass of reserves amounting to no less than 72 divisions. German superiority of numbers was, therefore, at last discounted, though they still had the great advantage of the shorter, interior lines for moving their reserves from place to place, which added a large percentage to their value.

Having been able, through an intelligence service which was unexcelled, to forecast with absolute accuracy the time, the place and the strength of the attack which the enemy delivered on the Champagne-Chateau-Thierry front on the morning of July 15, Marshal Foch was in a position to dispose just enough of his forces along that front to meet and hold the attack firmly.

On July 17, two days after the attack had commenced, the armies of von Below and von Mudra—who had taken the place of von Foller—who had engaged 38 divisions on their front line and had 11 divisions in close support, reducing the total German mass of maneuver to 51 divisions. Yet they had nowhere gained more than a few kilometers of ground and were then being repulsed everywhere, in spite of their most desperate efforts, because the 27 Allied divisions in front line and 19 in close support, belonging to the Sixth, Fifth and Fourth French Armies, were ample to reduce them to impotence and to inflict upon them terrible losses.

The 42nd United States Division, in a sector of the Champagne battlefield about 30 kilometers east of Reims, and the 3rd United States Division sup-

## PRESIDENT TALKS PEACE IN ENGLAND; IS NOW IN ITALY

Commander-in-Chief Goes  
Through S.O.S. on Way  
to Rome

## CHRISTMAS WITH TROOPS

Holiday Festivities Near Langres  
Include Review of Battle  
Scarred Divisions

President Woodrow Wilson, attached G.H.Q., U.S.A., Washington, on temporary duty with the A.E.F., reported back to Paris on New Year's Eve after a six days' tour of duty in Base Section No. 3 (meaning England), where he talked over peace problems with Lloyd George, the Premier, and other leaders. New Year's night saw him again on the road, headed for Italy, speeding through the regions of the S.O.S. en route to Rome, where he is now the guest of the Italian Government. This stay in the domain of our southern Ally will be brief, and the first of next week will see him back in France once more.

His one day's respite between "travel necessary in the public service" was a quiet, family New Year's Day, enlivened only by a game of golf. However, his Christmas was of a more public nature, for that day he set aside to buddy with his fellow countrymen in O.D. and tell them how proud the nation was of them.

To the 10,000 Yanks who, representing the whole A.E.F., marched in review before President Wilson at Reims, near Langres, the Christmas of 1918 will probably always be the greatest Christmas of their recollection. For on that day, they, as picked delegates from their fighting divisions, were introduced by General Pershing to the President of the United States at the commandment of the United States of America, troops before their Commander-in-Chief on foreign soil as "the Nation's victorious Army."

They heard General Pershing say, "I am proud to declare to the President that no Army has ever more loyally or more effectively served its country, and none have fought in a nobler cause. Any they heard the President himself, with a catch and a throw in his voice that, accomplished and confident speaker as he is, he could not control, declare, "The reason that we have been so proud of you is that you have put your heart into it; you have done your duty and you have done it with a spirit which gave it distinction and glory."

Then, in company front, national and regimental standard, dipping in salute to the Nation's and the Army's head, they passed in review, eyes shining as they came before the President and his party, then turning on moving pivot and wheeling away, the while the band of G.H.Q. played as it never played before the great march of "The Regiment of Sambre-et-Meuse."

## An Unforgettable Day

It was a great and unforgettable day in the history of American arms. It was equally great and unforgettable in the history of the two sister republics, France and the United States. Certainly no man who witnessed any part of the day's doings, at Chaumont, at Tignes, at Montigny-le-Roi, or anywhere along the road back to Chaumont again, will fail to tell and tell the story when he gets home, the story of how the President spent his Christmas with the men who by their sweat and blood had built on the battlefields of Europe the strong and sure foundations for his great play of right and justice.

Christmas Day dawned cold, bleak and dreary, as days generally do down in the valley of the high Marne or on the Meuse at this time of the year. It was snowing slightly when the President's train drew into Liffol-le-Grand, and the guard about the tracks and station had all his eyes turned to the leather jacket that its members had stuffed under their slickers. As the train pulled into Chaumont the snow ceased, however, and the sky overhead appeared as though it had come, rather sullenly to be sure, to the conclusion that as anything else was in gala form it had better not be the only thing to spoil the day.

On the station platform just as though he, too, were on stationary guard—Post No. 1, for example—stood General Pershing, ready, it seemed, to call, "Turn out the guard, commanding officer!" the moment his chief and guest

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## CIVILIAN WORKERS REPLACE SOLDIERS

Exchange Already Begun,  
to Be Carried Out as  
Quickly as Possible

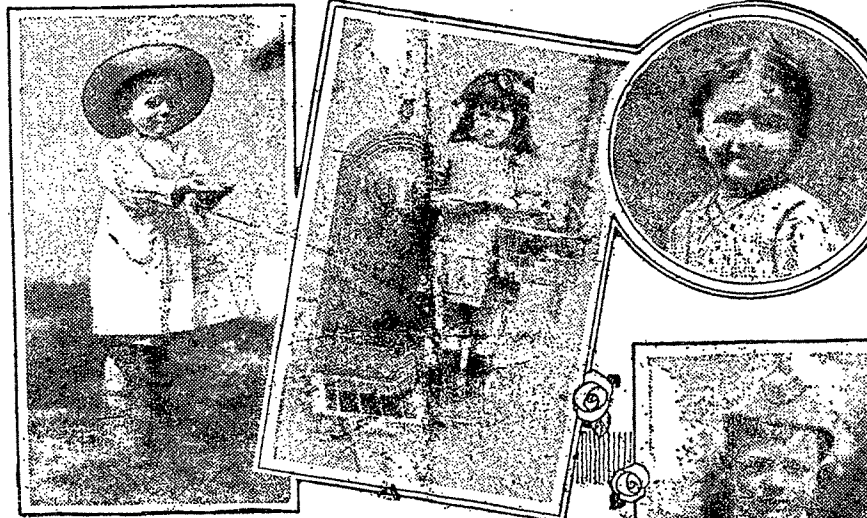
Civilian labor is to be substituted for the Engineers, Labor Battalions, doughboys and others who have been pinching hitting with a shovel in the S.O.S. and elsewhere.

The exchange has already begun and, according to announcement this week by the Commanding General, S.O.S., it will be carried out as quickly as possible.

Recently 1,000 Chinese laborers were sent to Brest to work as stevedores, and it is expected that soon Chinese will be helping handle freight at all the base ports.

Thousands of civilian laborers were employed in the A.E.F. during the war. They came from Portugal, Spain, Italy, China and many other countries. These will be shifted from war work to armistice and demobilization work as far as practicable. The same applies to hundreds of typists, stenographers, clerks and office employees recruited in France and Great Britain.

## FOUR OF THE A.E.F.'S 3,444



Reading from right to left, the three little girls, dimpled and all, are, respectively, the adopted mascots of Co. E, 191st Engrs.; the Army Field Clerk, Intelligence Section, G.S., and Co. F, 20th Engrs. The little girl in the center thought the photographer was going to take away her uncle who was visiting her while on permission. The young man is wearing the Croix de Guerre his father died in winning.

## NEW FRANC CALL BLOWS FOR ORPHANS' FUTURE

**THIRD ARMY MAKES  
RHINE CHRISTMAS  
COMMUNITY EVENT**  
Trees in Open Spaces  
Blossom into Bowers  
of Light

**SNOW COMES JUST IN TIME**  
Hymns Re-Echo Through Streets of  
Bridgehead Towns as Yanks  
March to Church

Young America has brought the community Christmas idea to the river Rhine. From the military brain center at Coblenz proper to the outmost point on the bridgehead perimeter, and throughout all the villages and towns lying between, the Yanks celebrated; not of course, as they would have done had they been at home, but still as best they could under the circumstances.

And, spurred by the civilian preparations about them and by the fact that they knew they were in a land which had "invented" Christmas, they outdid themselves. The new spirit they brought with them outdid that of the old. Illuminated cross—shining to the memory of the fallen warrior—has left a completely new impression of the day. The inhabitants of the army area have not yet done talking about it.

The hub of activities was in Coblenz and, particularly, in the fragments of the former Prussian Administration building, on the Rhine Esplanade near the famous Bridge of Boats, now the headquarters of the Third American Army. For it was here, in the basin of a fountain, that the Americans the day before Christmas erected a mighty Christmas tree, 40 feet high, decorated from top to bottom with all the furnishings and furbelows that could be heaped on, and festooned, in addition, with strings and strings of colored electric lights, red and blue.

**Why an Outdoor Tree?**  
All of Coblenz that had occasion to pass along the esplanade that day watched and wondered. "Those old Americans," was the burden of their thought, "setting up a tree outdoors for it had better not be the only thing to spoil the day."

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Children to Be Educated  
and Cared for in Years  
to Come  
HELPING HAND FOR 3,444

Good Already Done Will Be Extended—What's Your Suggestion for Their Future?

With a sum of francs already on the credit side of the ledger significantly near 2,000,000, with 3,444 sons and daughters of French soldiers who died in the common cause of Liberty adopted and provided with a home for a year, a plan is announced this week for continuing and extending the good already done by the adoption of the A.E.F.'s unique war orphan family.

It is a plan to raise another sum of francs, of an indefinite amount, to help educate and provide for these children, bereft of home and father in the years when their fathers were fighting the battles before we came into the war—or in the year in which we fought at their sides—to give as many of them as we can as near as possible the opportunity they would have had if their fathers had lived.

When the armistice was signed, the lamp set in the window back home seemed suddenly to throw its heart-warming light all the way to the gates of Sedan. Soon we would all be going back and there came then to many a man in the A.E.F. the wish that somewhere in France there should be raised a monument to the American soldier—some enduring gift to France that should keep his memory green long after the last uproarious transport had turned its back and left the other day.

Should ours be another Statue of Liberty raised in the harbor of St. Nazaire? Should it be a shaft of bronze set on high Montfaucon in the Argonne? Should it be a bridge of marble to span the tranquil Marne there at Chateau-Thierry, where the first Americans stood to bar the road to Paris?

And from a thousand and one nooks and corners in the A.E.F. the answer has come in. None of these. Nothing of bronze or stone, but a monument built of faith and hope and charity, one visible to all the world, a monument that should rest on the blood-drenched soil of France and reach to Heaven itself.

**Foundation Already Laid**  
Already the foundation is laid. It was laid by those American soldiers (mostly privates) who went down into their own pockets and brought up from them more than 1,700,000 francs to give a year's health, home and laughter to 3,444 French youngsters.

On the happiest New Year's Day this old world ever saw, the A.E.F. found itself the proud and slightly bewildered godfather of a very colony of young France salvaged from the battlefields—such a bonny family of young hopefuls as no army had ever accumulated in all history, just such a fatherless tribe as America herself would have had to worry about if the war had ever reached her shores.

That is the foundation of the monument. How high the shaft will rise and how rich and wonderful its decorations

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## HOW TO GET "THE STARS AND STRIPES" IN GERMANY

Extract from Administrative Bulletin No. 24, Headquarters Third Army, A.E.F., Coblenz:

1. A cash sale office for THE STARS AND STRIPES is now open at Third Army Headquarters, Coblenz.

2. Delivery of papers in numbers not less than 100 will be made by automobile to adjutant, chaplain, commanding officer or other officers authorized to supervise the cash purchase of papers for their respective organizations.

3. Orders for the ensuing issue are to be sent by regular courier through message center, addressed THE STARS AND STRIPES, Third Army Headquarters, and are to arrive not later than Monday evening each week.

4. For payment only American and French money accepted.

**FRANCE MOBILIZED  
6,900,000; LOSSES  
TOTAL 2,300,000**

**Destruction of Property  
Calculated at 64½ Billion Francs**

**SEVERE DRAIN ON GERMANY**  
Russian Figures May Exceed Enemy's Total of Killed and Wounded

One of the great factors in the concluding years of the war—a factor the dimensions of which the world was always obliged to guess at—was the drain on French man power. France bore her losses in silence. The figures of killed and wounded were never published. How great a part of the best youth of the country was snuffed out in that world crises known as the Battle of the Marne, how many Frenchmen died in the historic area before Verdun—the outlook for the future seemed only surmise. When, in the late spring of 1917, friends of France called on America to hurry, much was hinted at and the phrase "France has been bled white" gained sudden currency from one end of the United States to the other.

Everyone knew, then, that France had suffered grievous losses. How grievous no one knew until the official figures were given out the other day. One third of all the Frenchmen called to the colors are permanently lost to the nation. France mobilized 6,900,000. Of these 1,400,000 are dead and 1,000,000 are permanently injured.

**If It Were America**  
It is difficult for Americans to grasp such totals as these. France, with her 40,000,000, has less than half our population, and yet her dead are more than 25 times as many. But France, of course, was in the war up to the hilt from the first day, and America had no large number of troops under fire except during the final four months.

Take America. Discard, for a moment, the West and the South and New England. Consider just the Middle Atlantic and Middle Western States. In them, you would find a population not much greater than France's. Suppose, after calling to the colors the very flowers of their youth, these States had lost by death from wounds or disease a number of soldiers greater than the total number of combat troops America was able to send to France. Suppose those States had lost by death or disablement a number of soldiers greater than the total number of troops of all kinds, which America shipped to Europe during this war. Suppose these things, and you will have some conception of the drain on French man power since August, 1914.

Aside from the loss of her youth, France's material losses reach staggering totals, for the battles were waged on her own land. They have been calculated at 64,500,000,000 francs, of which 20 billions are counted as the loss of homes and another 20 as the loss of factories.

**Final British Figures**  
When the last shot was fired on November 11, France had 4,000,000 men mobilized. Of these, 1,500,000 (territorial factory workers, etc.) will be demobilized between now and March 1, when she will still have 3,000,000 men on duty.

For the total of losses by the British Empire, the world had been more or less prepared, for whereas there had been no official announcement before the armistice, Lord Northcliffe ventured last fall on a guess which every one knew must be based on fairly complete information.

The official figures now made public are:

Killed ..... 658,794 22,365 14,651 1,413 708,153  
Wounded ..... 2,032,142 5,165 ..... 3,407 2,040,752  
Missing ..... 320,146 1,222 3,295 ..... 324,663  
Prisoners ..... 3,049,851 29,766 17,256 4,820 3,112,533

These figures do not include 10,000 deaths among troops not forming part of the Expeditionary forces.

No member of the Alliance (with the

**THOUSANDS MORE  
ON JOURNEY HOME;  
COMFORT KEYNOTE**

**"Patience, and Reach America a Well Man,"  
Transport Motto**

## BOOKINGS TO JANUARY 11

Total of 96,883 Men and 4,418 Officers Can Be Accommodated Early in New Year

The A.E.F. is sailing for home as fast as ships are being provided. But the men in America who are directing the transportation job are cautioning patience. For one thing, we are going back in more comfort—and with more regard for health—than we had when we came over. The ships are not being loaded so heavily.

"It is only a matter of patience," said a telegram received this week from one shipping director in America. "We don't want our fighting men returned to us like cattle."

At noon on December 21, it was announced this week, 5,571 officers and 111,000 men were at the base ports ready to sail for the States. Of this number, 2,034 officers and 30,528 men were at that time actually under orders to embark. In addition, 62,000 officers and men were under orders to move to Brest as soon as they could be accommodated.

Ships in port and those coming in up to and including January 11, will accommodate 4,418 officers and 96,883 men. The skeleton of the 70th Division, which has been in replacement since it has been in France, the 34th Infantry and several units of Field Artillery have sailed for home during the last few days.

## The Latest Sailings

Late announcements of departures for the States include:

On Steamship Craster Hall, sailed December 20, casually only.

On Steamship Eastern Queen, sailed December 20, casually only.

On Steamship Antigon, sailed December 22, 75th Div. Casuals, St. Aignan Casual Co. No. 492 and 52nd C.A.C.

On Steamship Ives, sailed December 22, St. Nazaire Casual Depot No. 2.

On Steamship Veendijk, sailed December 22, St. Nazaire Casual Co. No. 119.

On Steamship Toula, sailed December 22, casually only.

On Steamship Matsonia, sailed December 23, 14th F.A., less 14, and Batteries A and B; 14th F.A. and Bordenx Casual Co. No. 6 inclusive.

On Steamship Konigen der Nederlanden, sailed December 25, 163rd F.A. Brig. (68th Div.); 125th F.A. Brig. (35th Div.); Bordenx Casual Co. No. 8; Blois Casual Co. No. 237, 322 and 333 and Beau Desert Hospital Co. A-38.

On Steamship Powhatan, sailed December 25, 3rd Infantry Div. Co. H (4th Div.); 12th F.A. (34th Div.); 115th Trench Mortar Battery (40th Div.); Bordenx Casual Co. No. 8 and Beau Desert Casual Co. No. 237, 322 and 333.

On Steamship Siboney, sailed December 25, 86th Div. Casuals; 161st F.A. Brig. (46th Div.); 332nd F.A. (36th Div.); and Casuals from Bois de la Boite Desert.

On Steamship Pastores, sailed December 25, casually only.

On Steamship Ives, sailed December 27, detachment Bordenx Casual Co. No. 8 and medical casual detachment.

On Steamship Kerevasta, sailed December 27, 2nd Infantry Casual Detach. No. 2.

On Steamship Henderson, sailed December 24, casually only.

On Steamship Mauretanien, sailed December 24, 3rd Infantry Div. Co. H (4th Div.); 12th F.A. (34th Div.); 115th Trench Mortar Battery (40th Div.); Bordenx Casual Co. No. 8 and Beau Desert Casual Co. No. 237, 322 and 333.

On Steamship North Carolina, sailed December 24, 11th Am. Tn. F. and S. of Hq. Co. (86th Div.) and 1st Am. Tn. F. and S. of Hq. Co. (35th Div.).

On Steamship Finland and Madawaska, sailed December 27 from St. Nazaire, 5,000 troops, about half being killed and wounded. On Finland, 5,000 troops, about half being killed and wounded. On Madawaska, 1,000 troops and 500 wounded.

On Steamship Powhatan, 333 F.A. and 126th F.A.

**OLD CAMPAIGN HAT  
WILL NOT COME BACK**

**New Ones Too Few, While  
Veterans Adorn Other  
Extremities**

The campaign hat will not come back. Hope has been held—some 2,000,000 separate hopes extending from Bordenx to Ehrenbreitstein, in fact—that it might. That hope is futile. The American campaign hat will continue to be the overseas cap, until such time as it is supplanted by the fedora, the derby or the straw.

The reason for the suppression of the campaign hat is not hardheartedness. There is, first of all, the very excellent reason that there are no more, nor enough of them to go around. Just how many unused or decently salvaged campaign hats there are in his storehouses the Q.M. does not know. He does know that the number is so small that only a fraction of the Army could be supplied them, and he does not like to play favorites.

To supply the whole A.E.F. with campaign hats would mean the diversion of some shipping to South America to bring back rabbit hair, from which the soldier may be surprised to know, the hats are made. Further, it is a question whether there is enough rabbit hair available to make the campaign hats that were turned in by the tens of thousands when the overseas cap (first issue) came into brief being is soon lost. They went into salvage, and thence into a machine that flattened them, cut them and converted them into felt slippers for hospital patients. Salvage experts deny at trying to make the slippers back into hats again.

The overseas cap, second issue, has been seen back in America on the heads of soldiers whose foreign service began and ended at Newport News.

**ALL DUE SPEED IN  
DEMobilIZATION,  
SAYS SECY. BAKER**

**Process Moving Swiftly, in  
Order and as Planned,  
He Declares**

## AMERICA'S 1919 GREETINGS

**"Your Patience Must Aid Adjustment to New Conditions,"  
Statement Points Out**

"The process of demobilization is moving swiftly, in order, and in accordance with plans," declares Secretary of War Newton D. Baker in a New Year's greeting addressed to "those in the uniform of the United States Army." Further, the secretary says that America will return her armed power "to the pursuit of peace with all due speed."

"As you have shared in the pride of the first accomplishment," continues the secretary, referring to the speed with which America made her power felt against the enemy, "so must your patience aid in the present adjustment to new conditions." The statement follows:

"Greetings to those in the uniform of the United States Army: "To you who have fulfilled the promises of the Nation overseas and you who stood ready in reserve at home, I send greetings for the New Year. The year of 1919 has shown what America can do; 1919 will show what America is."

"Your part in the great accomplishment has been a vital one. The part you will bear in the days to come will be no less important for our Country. The process of demobilization is moving swiftly, in order, and in accordance with plans. Clearly everything cannot be done at once and patience will be needed. Each step must follow the step before, and some units will go quickly, while others may be held at little longer for reasons that are very real, though sometimes not apparent on the surface."

## Made Power Felt Quickly

"As America made her power felt more quickly than the foe thought possible, so she will return that power to the pursuit of peace with all due speed. As you have shared in the pride of the first accomplishment, so must your patience aid in the present adjustment to new conditions."

"The privilege of having stood in the ranks of the Army of victorious democracy will be your pride through the years to come. If fortune had decreed that only weeks or months remain for you to stand in those ranks, instead of bloody years as our Allies have done—then bear yourselves through the remaining days in a way to increase that pride."

"The best wishes of the Country for 1919 and all the coming years are yours. To these I add my own heartfelt good wishes and the confidence that in the future, as ex-soldiers, as you have done in the past as soldiers, you will continue to reflect the highest honor on our country."

"NEWTON D. BAKER"

## SPECIAL LEAVES TO VISIT PARIS PLAN OF C.-IN-C.

**Possibility That Everyone  
in A.E.F. Will Get  
Chance**

If plans now under consideration go through, a great number of the officers and soldiers of the A.E.F. will have an opportunity to visit the French capital before their return to the United States. It is the intention of the Commander-in-Chief to give, if possible, every one of us the chance to begin at least one war-time reminiscence with the phrase: "When I was in Paris—"

G.I.Q. admits that this is a hope—not a promise. There is as yet no plan of difficulties in the way which might prevent the carrying out of this plan. The first and most important is the question of transportation. Railroad transportation is not only limited, but practically all available transportation is now being used to the utmost.

The second difficulty is the present congested condition of the capital. This is due not only to the fact that 10,000 American troops are stationed in or near Paris, but particularly to the fact that the peace conference has attracted to the city a large number of official visitors and others, so that there is an almost daily influx of new arrivals. More than ever now the magical city beckons for it is no longer dimmed, anxious, self-denying Paris which listened to the invader's cannon last summer, but a Paris of packed theaters and boulevards all strung with lamps, a Paris-a-bustle with preparations for the peace conference and a thrill with the coming and going of all the great folk of the world.

The Commander-in-Chief has taken all these things under consideration, and he hopes to be able to reward with a chance to see Paris those men who have spent most of their time in France in barns, in dugouts and in foxholes.

Of course, a yearning for Paris has been in the back of every mind in the A.E.F. since the first transports pulled in at St. Nazaire. More than ever now the magical city beckons for it is no longer dimmed, anxious, self-denying Paris which listened to the invader's cannon last summer, but a Paris of packed theaters and boulevards all strung with lamps, a Paris-a-bustle with preparations for the peace conference and a thrill with the coming and going of all the great folk of the world.